



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 9 FUGITIVE ALIENS DURING 3-DAY OPERATION

INDIANAPOLIS—Jesus Chavez-Villalon, 39, Mexican national convicted in September on money-laundering charges, is one of nine foreign nationals arrested here during the past three days by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers during an operation targeting fugitive aliens.

Of the nine fugitives arrested, four were criminal aliens with prior convictions including money laundering, DUI, theft and assault.

The foreign nationals arrested are from the following countries: El Salvador, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania and Mexico.

ICE Chicago Fugitive Operations Team officers arrested Chavez-Villalon without incident Nov. 16 at his Indianapolis residence. In May 1999, a federal immigration judge ordered him to leave the United States, but Chavez-Villalon ignored the judge's order and has been a fugitive ever since.

During the past year ICE noted significant gains in apprehending fugitives aliens: individuals who were ordered deported from the U.S and failed to surrender to the federal government, thereby becoming absconders.

ICE apprehended a total of 11,063 fugitives nationwide during fiscal year 2004, with 572 of those arrests conducted by Chicago ICE officers. The Chicago ICE office encompasses the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin.

“Arresting and removing criminal alien fugitives is a high priority for ICE,” said Debbie Achim, field office director for ICE Detention and Removal Operations in Chicago. “Most of the fugitives we remove from our communities are violent criminals who pose a threat to the public safety.”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.